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[00:00:00] JEROME PAGE

...I'm not really sure of the dates, but in '67, I came here in '67 July. July 4th, as a matter of fact, '67. I really can't remember how we were introduced into the construction thing, but that was one of my areas of working. I tried to work closely with the apprenticeship programs and the unions. At that time, the National Urban League had a federally funded labor department grant for working with the unions. There was one criteria that you had to set up a committee that would consist of labor unions, management, and urban league. The Urban League in that sense being the Black community, and you had to get the approval of management and the unions before the labor department would permit the funds to come in to the local community. This was prior to the Home Town Plan, and we had several national people come in to talk to the unions about that very thing and we ran into a stone block brick wall in the name of Austin St. Laurent and Jim Bender.

We never really figured out which was the real culprit, but we have considered that there were friends of Blacks in the labor movement for all these many years, but those friends are only friends in terms of what is in their best interest not what is in our best interest. They did not want to see any program that was funded, and the funds coming into any group outside of the labor hall and only in the construction trades. So that was our first major problem in this area. I'm not sure where it all peaked, but at the same time—Well, I know Ed Pratt was killed in 1969 January, about the 27th or 29th, so it was the year of 1968 that we were trying to get all of this together and having many, many meetings about it. A fellow that was very important to this, and this was going on maybe 1965-66 before I came, John Alton, a painting contractor, was extremely important to this because he was on the board of the Urban League. He was continually arguing on the board of the Urban League the fact that minorities could not get a fair shake in the construction industry and why can't we get this to pull us all together. We attempted to have several meetings, and that is when Model Cities also, in their grassroots— If you check the original papers that helped put Model Cities together, one of the themes running through was what was the community input. What did the community want to get out of Model Cities before Model Cities even existed? This was in '67 and '68, was the theme of impacting and working with the construction industry.

Now out on the other end of that, you have to parallel that with Tyree Scott, with Willie Allen, and with L.B. Curry, with Jim Takasaki, all the actors who were in the construction industry and sort of grumbling and beginning to move. They were beginning to move, and we were beginning to move in a parallel fashion. Then Ed Pratt was killed, we were denied the contract for a program, and we even went to the trouble to write the national program in what we called Project Learn.. We were still offered the funds, a hundred thousand dollars from the national to fund this program on a local basis, but you still had to get cooperation from the unions. And in 67, 68, 69 they would not give a sign off. They would not say we would cooperate. They felt they would solve the problem themselves, and in the meantime the Human Rights Commission and others were doing their thing in terms of bringing the courts into it and a legal suit against the unions. I don't remember when that legal suit started, but all of these things culminated at the same time. Then I remember very specifically after Ed Pratt's death, in June of 69, April, May and June of 69 the national Urban League wanted to make a movie in Seattle showing how you sort of pull an Urban league together. Here is a new director, myself, acting director, and the national Urban League wanted to come in and give me assistance and training but at the same time show visually how you pull an Urban League together out of a problematic—the leader of the Urban League was just assassinated, so they brought a team in and hired a film company, and we started the process of trying to identify what is the biggest pain and ache in the Black community.

We actually sent teams of staff out in different areas trying to come up with what is the major hurt in the community, and we came up with several things: the employment and union problem, the police community relations, housing, desegregation in education, and the closure of Garfield, and all of that. It was just all of the classic problems, but then we had to narrow it down and say, "What would the Black community most react to? What was the biggest pain?" It was a beautiful model of grassroots community organization. What's hurting the people, and once you find out what is hurting them then what do you do about it? In that process, one of the staff members started collecting information on the unions and the minority workforce and employment. At the time that we had the big discussion about this, he had collected information that showed what Blacks were working on every job that we could visually identify in the city. Every major job. We are not talking about somebody building a house where two men were working, but like the Bank of California, like the Medgar Evers Swimming Pool, like the extension on the King County Harbor Hospital, the University of Washington, Sea-First Building, and Sea-Tac Airport. He went around and physically counted all the Blacks, and this was a fantastically thorough social work oriented job. The long and short of it was that the national people at the same time the school situation exploded, people started marching on the construction sites, Tyree and his group

started up here at the Medgar Evers Swimming Pool, all these things started peaking exactly at the same time. That obviously was coming from a national unrest that was going on.

Right in the middle of our film and our decision making, the police went wild up here on Cherry and Empire Way. Not Cherry, 23rd and Cherry, right near Garfield. What occurred was some of the marchers were trying to march to the school to bring the school kids out to join the march and the police were determined to prevent them from going there. So right on 23rd and Cherry the police threw tear gas all around. There was a filling station, there was a restaurant, there was the Bluebird Tavern, and all of these solid community business types then all of a sudden were caught up into this thing where they were innocent bystanders. They weren't taking sides and the police were very rough with them, very gruff with them, throwing tear gas, and using the magic word, and all of this. That's where our focus then took. Police community relations and police aggression in the black community. Then this whole process of filmmaking was running in that direction.

Shortly after that, the Medgar Evers thing occurred in which Tyree, and his group stopped the—I'm blocking on something. I can't remember why the people were marching, why the police were out. I think it was that those were the hot summers, or the hot springs, when the students were out in the spring of '69. The students were just angry and throwing rocks and destruction all over the East Coast and major cities, so it was that atmosphere. I don't think that they were marching for jobs. It was prior to that. So our film effort went on with the police thing and culminated in a major meeting in Mt. Zion Church. It was quite a dynamic situation, in which I like to think the whole exposure of the police, and the graft, and the take and all of the ugly things this police system has been participating in for years were first exposed to the light of day. From that time on, from June of '69 until the time that Raymond quit, until the time that his first assistant was put in jail, Cook, was jailed, and half of the police force was fired, and all sorts of things happened out of that meeting at Mt. Zion, which was our Seattle Urban League's meeting trying to bring the community to verbalize their anger towards the police department and the city.

Shortly after that the thing at Medgar Evers exploded. Tyree, Takasaki, L.B. Curry and all the construction actors, Hank Roney, all of them were there angry about the city funds building Medgar Evers Pool and they could not get on the job site. I think that it might have—I am not sure that the very first one was very important because it might even have been a joint contract between a minority and white contractor. But the minority contractor, if he was there, he wasn't in communication with the activist contractors, so they were angry. At that very instance, our staff person joined with them and gave them behind-the-scenes directions. That was really a stroke of genius because they closed down one job site. Then they said, sort of like, "What should we do from here," and our staff member has the list of all the job sites, who was working where, how many people, which ones were dramatic, which could be closed down and for a long period of time. He moved in behind the scenes and gave them guidance and direction in terms of what job sites to close down.

[00:13:14] WILLIAM LITTLE

Who was the staff person?

[00:13:15] JEROME

Cecil Collins, Sr. He went at the peril of his own life because those were some very, very hot days. Those were some very heated construction workers with their revolvers and pistols and political activists who wanted to get into the thing, so they would get there and stir the construction workers up. It was fantastically beautiful what

had happened in terms of all the elements of the community getting together and. stopping the action in this whole city.

Paralleling to that, the court was coming up with that decision of discrimination by the four key unions. The Urban League's involvement, I guess you would say, would be totally behind the scenes. Fact finding, information gathering, and in a guidance sort of way, and developing a trust relationship, which was very, very difficult because from the get go they did not trust any one who was not a part of the construction. But through thick and thin' the Urban League was there with them. Some members of the Urban League staff, and there were others—Walt Hubbard. Walt and I sat through many, many heated meetings in which we were cursed out, which we were the voice of reason, we tried to work through some things with them. Out of that came—Model Cities funded the Urban League to do a minority construction program, CID[Chinatown International District]. "On May 14th, 1970, after a year of planning and study, the Seattle Urban League and the Board of Directors of the Central Contractors Association culminated their review and discussion. That was after it was over. I have to go further back than that. I don't have that one. This would be '69 and '70, but on May 14th of '70 after a year. So the thing had been going on—

[00:15:37] WILLIAM

That's CID right?

[00:15:38] JEROME

Yeah. The project was created by Seattle Model Cities' Employment Task Force, The Seattle Urban League, and SMCP [Seattle Model Cities Program], and efforts of the CCA [Central Contractors Association], and other concerned members of the community. Well, and then it goes on to say what the CID was all about. Cecil Collins was the Director of CID.

We provided financing for minority contractors, unfortunately, we didn't get total cooperation from as many people as we should have. We set guidelines and rules. I remember very vividly we were loaning money to contractors at 3%. A lot of folks said that was absolutely wrong afterwards, but those same folks who said that it was wrong were supposed to be a part of the decision making to help to decide how much we should have been loaning them. They felt it was too much of a give away and the contractors would not respect that. As a result, some contractors borrowed the money, paid it back, moved ahead aggressively and other contractors borrowed the money, lost the money, tried to borrow more money, lost the money, and skipped town or walked away from the debts. We were left with a huge debt. I don't even remember what it was.

The contractors owed—Some of the contractors went belly up, they went bankrupt, they went out of business, some of them blamed us, but those very contractors were the ones that brought their books to us in a paper bag. They were operating out of their hip pocket. Once we helped them put their books together, they still wanted to operate like they were operating out of their hip pockets, take the top of the money and buy a car, as opposed to buying the car at the very end of the road not at the beginning. All of those problems came, and a lot of them to this day blame the Urban League, but one of the biggest compliments that the Urban League got was from Liberty bank and Jim Purnell, who would say, "Thank God for the Urban League as a buffer in those heated days," when they were also coming and cursing him out and saying. "You owe us! Loan us this money." Of course our project would loan the money, and would guarantee the money that Jim Purnell would loan. The point is that, as ugly as it is, we had to close down and, in a sense, fail., but it was better us, the social program, as opposed to the bank, an established institution in this community. That would have been terrible if

he would have had all that money out with no guarantees behind it. Of course Model Cities was criticized, the Urban League was criticized, but I think that Walt Hundley agreed with me that, even though some mistakes were made on all parts, the group we were dealing with were so difficult to deal with that it's impossible to say you could have prevented some of those mistakes.

Those were the days when people were getting shot, Cecil Collins got beat up on occasion. He was regularly threatened. A contractor would borrow the money then he would mess over it, not intentionally in most cases, just out of ignorance. Then it would be pay day on Friday, and he would come in and demand that we meet his payroll, and he would have ten, or twenty, or thirty guys out there blaming us because we didn't meet his payroll. Not blaming him because he didn't manage his money right. In that same period of time is when Tyree got beat up by some CCA members and that whole hassle of who is going to control and what the program's going to be. That was very ugly. That is when Tyree sort of dropped out, sort of retired from the scene and then resurfaced as a construction person, as opposed to a contractor. When he resurfaced as a construction person, and I'm sure he and others can give better—

[00:19:55] WILLIAM

I've already got all that.

[00:19:56] JEROME

You got all that. Okay. When he resurfaced the court order then was coming along. Well, at that time, the court order—The Judge Lindberg and all his beauty and wiseness found total discrimination. Those are my words, they are probably not his words, but it was classic, it was a classic case that the whole United States should have jumped onto and recognised. Then he set up the court order, and he leaned on the Human Rights Commission to initiate who should be on that court order. Some of us discussing it helped make those decisions as to who should be on it because what they were doing was two from the unions, two from management, I believe two from the government, and two, originally, from the minority community, and each one having an alternate. Then later on, Tyree's group sued to include UCWA [United Construction Workers Association] in the court order and having a legal seat on the Court Order Advisory Committee, which was successful. Originally they weren't in it, but they were very much a part of it because most everything that happened they were a part of initiating it.

The selection of the people on the court order was, I think, very well. It gave the minorities some involvement and some pseudo-control. From those days on, on a weekly, monthly, annual basis ever since then, we'd have meetings of this court order trying to shepherd this thing through the system. And I can say, categorically, the unions have been very consistent in giving as little as they possibly could at every turn. It used to be that Austin St. Laurent said in those meetings that—He was an excellent barometer because when he would be kind and sweet and like a nice old gentleman, you knew that something was wrong. You knew that he was winning too much. When he was furious and foaming at the mouth, you knew that you had him with his back to the wall. That was a beautiful dynamic period. Of course all along there was Tyree's group at various times coming out, and at one point threatening and at another point actually closing the—sitting in on the court lawn, or closing a site down, and continually keeping things in an uproar, which made the momentum always go forward. The threat that Tyree's group provided, the threat that the whole construction workers and the contractors provided was fantastic. When they went out to the airport and closed the airport or down on the three occasions. Once when they—I forgot what the—

[00:23:03] WILLIAM

September 24th, 1969.

[00:23:06] JEROME

Was it September 24th? Well one of the times people went out and marched and actually marched out onto the airfield .

[00:23:12] WILLIAM

That was the 24th.

[00:23:13] JEROME

That was the 24th? Oh alright. That was absolutely dangerous. Somebody could have lit a match smoking and blew up the whole area because of the high octane fuel. That was a stroke of genius because when you close down an airport—I think it was closed down for maybe five minutes.

[00:23:31] WILLIAM

Hours.

[00:23:33] JEROME

No. I mean when they were on the runway. They weren't on the runway for hours.

[00:23:38] WILLIAM

No it was definitely more than 5 minutes, about at least 15 to 20 minutes.

[00:23:41] JEROME

They were on the runway a short amount of time, but the point is that they threw off schedules all around the United States because planes are leaving one place to arrive at another place at a very specific moment in time. When they were out there, that got national headlines. Also another time when everybody—I was out there on that occasion. It was supposed to be a peaceful demonstration. All we did was go out and buy tickets, and we closed down the airport by chewing up in all the lines and asking questions and buying tickets. Every time they did that, all the police around the city had to send buses out to the airport, and that cost money. That cost fantastic amounts of money.

[00:24:30] WILLIAM

It's something like \$4,000 today.

[00:24:33] JEROME

4,000 today? I think it was more—

[00:24:34] WILLIAM

No. \$22,000. I've got the figure somewhere.

[00:24:35] JEROME

At any rate, none of this, the Court Order Advisory Committee, the CID or none of it, could have been possible without the aggressive leadership of Tyree Scott and—

[00:24:53] WILLIAM

Okay. Now that's the next question that we can discuss. Let's talk about Tyree Scott in two ways. One way is Tyree Scott as a Black leader and the second way is Tyree Scott as a community organization strategist.

[00:25:14] JEROME

I think that they're both intertwined. I don't know if you can separate them. I don't think that you have a black leader without some skills and without the issue of community organization strategy. Tyree has just tremendous courage and that's exactly what the Black community needed. Well, I am not sure—The whole thing couldn't have been possible with no one else. No person with any credentials or degree could have done what he did. No other construction worker because none of them were as committed as he was because he's given some six or eight years of his life of very positive production. He could have been working and producing and taking advantage. At any number of positions he could have moved in and made a fortune, which some of the guys did do. At strategic points they moved in and made their own money. So the dedication that Tyree has had, the charisma he has had, the sense of honesty, and the sense of justice, and the sense of goal, always looking out.

I think one error that Tyree made, and maybe it was an impossible thing not to have done, was to try to move on to the national scene as opposed to carrying the battle forth on the local scene. The problem with that is that you get burnt out. You can't stay out there in front of the troops and get beat up and get thrown in jail. Tyree has been beat up more than anyone I know of in the Black community, and if not by police, by some of his own brothers sometimes or people that he is trying to do something with and for are the ones that, in many cases, have turned against him. That is the risk of this kind of leadership.

As far as community organizing skills, Tyree had some very good support and some very good advice. I guess the key to that is that he had a whole lot of advice. He was able, in a very democratic fashion, to sit through and come out with some very good decisions and be prodded by and guided by, in most cases, the right people in the right positions as opposed to some hot heads who would say, "Let's go burn the MFs down. Let's go destroy." At some times he would have to step back and conciliate and negotiate and move ahead. He couldn't always be a forceful, aggressive militant, power mover. But I guess that I will also have to supplant in there that none of this—The beauty of what had happened here was the beauty really of Seattle and the variety of backgrounds, the variety of supports that came together. I remember some meetings when we were negotiating with the unions and fighting the unions in which the clergy, the NAACP [National Association for the Advancement of Colored People], the Urban League, Tyree and all of his, forces, you name it, Model Cities and their task forces, which really brought in a wide variety of people from all these different groups.

[00:29:14] WILLIAM

Sounds like you had a very broad coalition.

[00:29:17] JEROME

A very broad coalition of people, who to some degree, trusted, That is a very difficult ingredient in community order because I can remember times when individuals had their own axes to grind and would you would get in a meeting— Like I remember one very specific, or a couple of meetings, where the Ecumenical Administrative up on 10th Avenue where the Episcopal Church is, in which, sane folks had their own axes to grind, but they also sort of came together and were coalesced and cohesive on the issue of minorities in the unions, and the fact that the unions had discriminated and kept minorities out, and they weren't about to permit a program to come in that Blacks didn't have some control over. And so the shoe was on the other foot because before, when the Urban League was trying to get funding, the unions were able to stop the funding by insisting that they wouldn't let any funding come into this area that the unions didn't totally control. Once the court came through, and I'm sure that the advocacy and the militancy of Tyree and his group helped the court come to its decision, there is no question that all of these things sort of came together. I don't even remember any dates.

[00:30:42] WILLIAM

I've got all the dates.

[00:30:43] JEROME

It'd be interesting to put a chronological study together on this—

[00:30:48] WILLIAM

I got that.

[00:30:50] JEROME

To see what exactly did occur and when which also caused something else to happen. One thing happened it caused something else to happen,

[00:31:00] WILLIAM

I need to let you see my first two chapters. I've already got that written.

[00:31:03] JEROME

I'd like to see it.

A person like Walt Hundley being in a position of power as Director of Model Cities was able to cause a lot to happen, like the whole CID funding, as dangerous and as difficult as it was. Walt Hundley went out on a limb to fund the project. There are a lot of contractors out there that Walt Hundley went out on a limb to guarantee their

monies at the Liberty Bank and various other places to help get them over some rough humps. The Court Order Advisory Committee has just been a tremendously long struggle. It's amazing that we have been able to sit down for seven long years and keep it going, and it is still going on and that's where my thinking— You hit me just in time. Just last month we set up a committee to— The charge to the committee is to start thinking about future funding and future direction because very shortly the court order will be met and the unions will have absorbed the number of minorities the court ordered them to absorb. My concern is that this momentum not be stopped because then you are dealing with a minimal entry type level thing, and the unions will close up so fast, back to the old system. So you have to have a funded program that continues to push for this type of thing.

[00:32:43] WILLIAM

Okay. Let's talk about leadership styles among Blacks in the Seattle area, at least people that occupy positions of responsibility and consider themselves leaders. What are the various styles that you would begin to identify in the area. Let me ask another question on top of that. In terms of—You mentioned in one part of the discussion about the clergy and other groups came together and coalesced around certain issues. In terms of examining this whole thing, someone said to me that there is one group, which I kind of coined it as a white quasi-power brokers within this community, similar somewhat to that in New Orleans where you have white people occupying a position of responsibility within the Black community and are not really identified as white men but identify as Black leaders. We don't have that—

[00:33:39] JEROME

I was going to say, I can't identify anybody in the Black community here that sits in that position.

[00:33:44] WILLIAM

We don't have any particular white individuals doing that. We have a group of white people that are influencing conflict types of decisions that's made—

[00:33:55] JEROME

What group was that?

[00:33:56] WILLIAM

Well, I would argue, it would make a good argument too, that the ministries and the social workers definitely does—

[00:34:04] JEROME

White social workers? What social worker?

[00:34:08] WILLIAM

As a group. As a profession of people, that's a group. Not a professional.

[00:34:15] JEROME

You're not saying as a formal--

[00:34:17] WILLIAM

No. An informal type of process, but it does have some tendency--

[00:34:21] JEROME

Well, see, I would argue that from the point of view of social workers, you may be talking about one or two specific individuals who have moved in and out of the scene. I am thinking particularly of some fellow that, and I can't even remember his name, was one time hired by Model Cities and has had a variety of roles. He happened to be a social worker, but I totally disagree with whites having in any way played that type of role in this community. I don't think that they have had any-- From my knowledge of NASW [National Association of Social Workers], I remember the year that Walt Hundley got the Social Worker of the Year Award. At that time, I was on the Executive Committee. It was either just before or just after that I was on the Executive Committee, or during, of the NASW. I made a strong attempt to get involved in NASW. I guess for two years running I was attending meetings regularly and heavily involved in it, and it was utterly--I would say, that if anything, the war on poverty and Johnson's whole politics of putting money into the Black community the professional social workers backed out of their responsibility. They were noticeably absent and uninvolved through those years, and I think that's carried over to the present time. I would be hard pressed to think of some examples of social workers influencing or involved in--What would occur to me is maybe the dean of the School of Social Work, and I think that if that were the case, they would be much closer to the Model Cities program, much closer to the Urban League, and much closer to OIC [Opportunities Industrialization Center]. I don't know. I would disagree with you totally on that.

[00:36:28] WILLIAM

(chuckles)

I just wanted to get your opinion on it. I'm just postulating. I'm not going to make a defining decision, but I think there is something that do color the decision, maybe not directly through direct participation but in some ways in maybe indirect influence methods, and tangible money, and other types of things.

[00:36:45] JEROME

If you were going to take a statement, I would put that more on the back of the Downtown Business Establishment who color the decisions. This is from a historical point that, in this city in days gone by, there were a very small group of people in the downtown club. The business establishment who influenced all the decisions and you can look at any-- I don't know what it is today, but six or eight years ago, you could look at any board of directors or take any ten board of directors of any ten of your top companies, any ten across the board, and you'll see such an inbred cross-fertilization of that system. I had an example of that that occurred to me that was utterly ridiculous in terms of I had a board member who was a key officer in one of the banks, and we were trying to get a loan from the bank, and the board member made a major issue of saying "I'm sorry, I can't take part in this discussion because it would be conflict of interest." We went to the map on that very point because I showed him how if you take any four banks and then throw in Safeco, Boeing Company, the Olympic

Hotel, Western International Hotels, throw in any conglomeration of the business power structure, Paccar, and you will see that they are intermarried, interrelated. Their family structures, or their board structures, so that Safeco has a seat on Sea-First Bank, and Sea-First Bank has a seat on Boeing Company, and Boeing Company has seat on Paccar. It's a fraternity, and you can't tell me—My argument was that no one could prove to me that, when they get behind those closed doors of those board, meetings that the Boeing Company man says, "Well, I'm sorry I can't take a position on that because that will impact Boeing and it relates to Boeing." That's why he's sitting on that board, to see that it does impact Boeing, and to see that that decision doesn't infringe on Boeing, or to see that Boeing gets the right loan process or the right use of the money. But when it gets down to this little piddling Black community thing, then they get super, "I'm sorry. That's a conflict of interest. I can't." That's how the world revolves around dealing with conflicts of interest and making sure that your interests serves men, and not saying "Hey, I'm sorry. That's a conflict."

So if you're saying that there's some influence, I'm saying, yeah, and that's the downtown business establishment types that don't let certain things get out of their control.

[00:39:42] WILLIAM

Oh okay. I agree with that, but I was also—I recognize that fact. I didn't recognize it that indepth nature, but it seems to me that, even at a local level, that you still, within the confounds—This area is not strictly predominant Black. I think we might have 46% of the population in the central area, but you still have an awful lot of white people living in this area.

[00:40:08] JEROME

That's because of the hill up there. That's because of the ridge, the Gold Coast. I think that if you eliminated the Gold Coast, you could take Bellevue, and Mercer Island, and just eliminate Lake Washington and flatten this area out like many cities are. Then this city, there would be such a different complexity to this city. If you go to 34th Avenue and come back from 34th to 15th, I guarantee you there are white people that live there, but they're not white people that are a part of influence or decision making. The white liberal influence on decision making are those folks that live up on the hill or who live on 35th down going—they don't necessarily have a view—going towards Epiphany Church all. in that little cul de sac up in there. That's where the white influence is.

[00:41:02] WILLIAM

So you got this white liberal, and they do influence—

[00:41:08] JEROME

If you look at things like the schools, they get very much involved in the Central Area School Council and things like that. But if you look at the construction work and the construction industry and that effort, they got involved only on the peripheral, like the American Friends Service Committee and like the church. Oh what's the name of the liberal church down in University District?

[00:41:33] WILLIAM

University Methodist Church now.

[00:41:38] JEROME

No. I'm thinking of another one. The Unitarians. In my memory, as I remember the white folks who were involved in the construction fight, you had some good—and I'm saying good because they have historically been liberals before the liberal term was identified—and those are the Unitarians and the American Friends Service Committee. These kinds of people, they aren't always right, but they're not fly-by-night liberals. They were involved, and they were like cannon fodder. I don't believe, in most cases, they were trying to call the shots, but they involved themselves and they gave of their energies and their time.

[00:42:23] WILLIAM

Okay. Let me give you a good example of what I'm talking about, and I can probably identify. "Probably in June of 1972, I think, exactly, June the 8th, 1972 at Seattle Community College. June the 6th was probably the first day they came and shut down the community college after they left the University of Washington. The next day, that day they had a [? pitched battle ?] with white construction workers.

[00:42:49] JEROME

And Austin St. Laurent was leading in the forefront, and he got hit over the head. He tried to claim he was trying to calm the waters, and he got hit over the head because he was out there in front leading his troops on because The Court Order Advisory Committee was meeting at that very instance.

[00:43:07] WILLIAM

That's right. Tyree was there, and he came down later after the fight.

The next day they had another [? pitched battle ?] where they broke the glasses and everything else. They outflanked the police. It was just a very hilarious type of encounter. That's one of the funniest parts of my dissertation. The next day, after these two pitched days, the police was out there ready. They was ready to kill someone, as Tyree recalls it. They stopped the protestors at that particular day and was right in—Then, on that particular day, Tyree noted that they had had the largest demonstration, largest group of people they'd ever had out of any of their protests, march on that particular day. A lot of kids, a lot of white folks out there, a lot of clergy, a lot of other people. So what essentially happened is—If the construction workers were bad, they would've confronted the police at that particular time. Then there'd probably been a lot of violence, but because of the nature—

[00:44:09] JEROME

The fact that there were all those white folks.

[00:44:10] WILLIAM

All those white folks there, and all the kids there. He had to change his strategy. As opposed to confront, he had to move out and be arrested. Five of them decided that they would be arrested to put aside the issue. But it changed the whole mood of the strategy that the strategy that they was planning to use just because this whole

force came in en masse. I'm thinking it wasn't unplanned on their part. I'm pretty sure it was planned. So in terms of a group really—

[00:44:42] JEROME

Yeah, but I can remember discussing it there. We were very heavily involved in trying to figure out how to prevent bloodshed.

[00:44:53] WILLIAM

Yeah. I'm not negating that fact.

[00:44:54] JEROME

But I'm not sure—You see, my argument would be that I don't necessarily think that was white strategy, white liberal strategy, that did that.

[00:45:07] WILLIAM

Okay.

[00:45:08] JEROME

If it was, you've got an isolated accidental issue but I cannot— I would totally disagree with white liberal—The one instance is Alice Paine at American Friends. She was the one instance of the white strategist, I think, who had undue influence over Tyree and construction workers. I wouldn't want that to be recorded as I having said that, but she is very visible. She was visible at times she should not have been. She was really enjoying her role in the hot bed of what was going on. I won't say anymore about that.

[00:45:59] WILLIAM

I won't record you on that one. If I do, I'll just make this statement an observation.

Let's go back to the leadership styles. We got tied off on that concept. I'm writing that part of my dissertation now, and I wanted to bounce it off and hear some of the things you had to say about it.

How about leadership styles in the Seattle area among Blacks?

[00:46:20] JEROME

Oh wow. That's a tough one. When I first came here, there were just like in the white community, in the Black community there was a small group of Blacks that were the leaders. They were the identified leaders, and they really—Not much happened without them sanctioning an approval, but in '67 I believe there was an opening up of the whole system, '67, '68 by the whole student rebellious movement. The Larry Gossets and E.J. Briskers, and you can go down the line and list fifty. Some of them have survived and some of them haven't, but with that whole element getting involved, that's sort of the end of the day when a very few Blacks could make decisions.

(break)

...The John Adams era, when John Adams, Walt Hubbard, Charles Johnson, Ed Pratt, that few group of people, decisions flowed. It was basically the Central Area Civil Rights Movement. I would say in a probably good ten year period nothing happened or could happen in this community without the involvement, the control, the direction of the Central Area Civil Rights Committee. That era ended the late 60s

[00:48:03] WILLIAM

Around '69?

[00:48:05] JEROME

'68, when there was a specific meeting, I think. There was a big challenge, and some of the older leadership really backed off and sort of dropped the whole thing. That isn't to say that they eliminated themselves from leadership roles, it just opened up. With Tyree and his group doing what they were doing, I think the influence upon Tyree came through Walt Hubbard and in a more direct fashion than from where you would expect the leadership to be from, you know, the church. I'm not saying that negative to Reverend McKinney because I don't remember where he was. The point was, when John Adams didn't lead, Reverend Hill, who came to take his place, didn't move into a leadership role.

I think the religious leadership is terribly vital, and John Adams showed how vital it was because you sort of have the most free agent because as long as he's on the side of God, his parish, his community is not going to sanction him if he's an aggressive leader and he's not doing something crazy. Let's say we all thought marijuana should be public and everybody should smoke marijuana. Well, you wouldn't get very far with a cause like that in the church up here because the brothers, and sisters, and older mothers, that's not their thing. No matter how good or bad marijuana is, that's not a just cause to thrust in the church. So if a minister doesn't get on something like that, then he can't lose. I think if he's out saying something about jobs, or schools, or busing or some of the gut issues, and about we've got to have better schools for our kids or jobs. I think there's been a vacuum in that since John Adams left in terms of the real dynamic leadership that would step forward. Everyone else, no matter what we were doing, had some strings attached. Walt Hundley and Model Cities, Walt Hubbard, Charles Johnson has become very silent, and he's a judge. That gives him a total veil.

Walt Hundley has continually provided a leadership role, but each era he's provided a different type of leadership role because he's been dancing to different tunes, and very consistent and very much to the benefit of the Black community. I'm not saying it's not been to the benefit of the Black community, but in his present job, he can't do some of the things he did as the Model Cities director. As model cities directors, he couldn't do some of the things he did as CAMP [Central Area Motivation Program] director, and as CAMP director, he couldn't do some of the things he did as CORE [Congress of Racial Equality] spokesman. So he's moved, and I'm not sure how I would qualify those leadership roles that he's played throughout the last at least 15 years. He's played a key leadership role at every phase of this city's development and may have been the most key of all because he's the one that's been here with us. If you take Tyree, he's had his ups and downs. Sometimes he went and dropped completely out of the city. There's no questioning his dynamic leadership and what he's provided for this city. You take Charles Johnson, no question of that either, but he's now a judge and his leadership comes in a more subtle fashion. I don't have models of leadership that I can say, "This is--"

[00:52:23] WILLIAM

Well, I'll be good with that.

[00:52:25] JEROME

Walt Hundley and Walt Hubbard is a case and study. Drastically different from Walt Hubbard, and Walt Hundley, or Tyree Scott. Seeing that whole political thing, we missed a major bet when we didn't make it in King County. That could've changed drastically what happens in this city if there were a Black man sitting on the county council. By 200 votes? That's utterly ridiculous that we would permit that to happen. It makes me sick every time I think of it because we've suffered for five years as a result of it. Or four years, three years, whatever period of time it's been.

I'm sorry. I don't think i can be—

[00:53:13] WILLIAM

I think that's fine. That's pretty good.

[00:53;17] JEROME

And then you've got a whole lot of folks sitting in the background who are [? influencing ?] in their own way, Charles E. Smith, Jerome Farris.

[00:53:29] WILLIAM

How about this one fellow by the name of Lloyd? Let's see. Gil Lloyd? He's got some interesting characteristics. I mean you got—

[00:53:38] JEROME

He certainly is. What do you think about him?

[00:53:41] WILLIAM

(laughs)

What do I think about him? I wanted you to tell me!

[00:53:44] JEROME

You're interviewing me. Well, Gil Lloyd is a very lovable person. I guess I would sum Gil Lloyd up in—I found out in my travels around the country, which I do quite a bit, that all of the sudden I kept hearing that we've got a fantastic expert in Seattle by the name of Reverend Gil Lloyd. I suddenly realized the dynamics in the church that if you're a good strong church member, and if you've got a good presentation, then the church—The Black church is such a back scratching—You know, you scratch my back, I'll scratch your back—in that a guy like Gil Lloyd or any of our church leaders can go in one years time to maybe ten or twenty different cities invited by a local church, any of our local churches, to be their speaker for Sunday morning service or Wednesday night

revival or whatever it's billed on. It's much like Vernon Jordan as the national director of the Urban League. His whole job is to go around and make speeches and to influence decisions and influence people through his public image. He doesn't sit down and direct the Urban League. I mean, he's the director of the Urban League, but he's got a whole staff, a cabinet, that does the directing. He's the one that gets out there and delivers the message. That's kind of interesting on a national level where you have a national—He can go into 104 different cities, and I will guarantee him 1,000 people to sit and listen to him. But then in the church circuit, the Ebenezer Hill Baptist Church in Tukwila, Mississippi with 800 people, whatever the number are, then Gil Lloyd can come in and deliver his message, which turns out to be very similar all over. All of a sudden I realize that Gil Lloyd is—It's sounding like Gil Lloyd is the economic development and business development expert out of Seattle. I was getting the feeling if I were the Minister A, B, C in such and such city, I would expect to come and see Seattle was a huge shopping center that's owned by Blacks, a hugely economically developed community because of some of the things I've heard that he said. I wish only that that leadership could carry through here in the community. I'm not sure why it isn't, but it's probably a part of the whole history with the church here and where he was and what he's done through the years. Sort of what is his calling? I don't know, but Gil Lloyd is a beautiful man. I think that on certain occasions, if you need somebody to really lay the word down, Gil Lloyd can really do it. But I'm not so sure that once having laid the word down—This was the difference in John Adams, to lay the word down, and then follow it up, and then organize the groups of people to come and follow back, and do the things, and organize a rump group out here that would be doing the thing on the outside, which he would say, "I don't know anything about that. I'm the church man." But, you know, that's community organization, and I don't think Gil is doing that sort of thing. Maybe he did twenty years ago.